The raiyats pray that the abandoned Anikat near Bidarhalli of this Taluk may be urgently taken in hand, and water supplied from Kapila river by restoring the Kalvés on both sides of the Anikat.

Dewan's reply.—Inexpedient. The Heggaddevankote Taluk presents several instances of the undesirability of channel irrigation in malarious tracts.

Subject No. 257.

Removal of restriction under Megalve Channel and Karigala Tank and grant of good supply of water through these sources.

Summary of discussion.—Lakshmantirtha is in itself a rivulet. The raiyats holding lands irrigated by its main channels, Udur Nala and Hanumantapur Nala, have been continually complaining of short supply of water and consequent loss of crops. The drainage water of the above channels trickles down through tracts of jungles to Hebhalla from which Megalve and Karigala Tank receive their supply of water. These are not fed by any river channel but all the lands under Megalve and Karigala Tank are assessed wet at the same rate as under the main channels. There was a strict order issued after a careful examination by Colonel Johnson and other Engineers that wet cultivation below Hanumantapur Nala should not be extended indiscriminately. This order remained in force till the Survey and Settlement. Since then, even Anâdi Banjar lands, not to speak of other dry lands, have been converted into wet. This has resulted in short crops to many raiyats and difficulty to Government. It is prayed that good supply of water should be given through Megalve and Karigala Tank and that strict orders should be issued prohibiting any increase in the wet cultivation.

Dewan's reply.—Extension of wet cultivation under the Hanagod series of channels in general and the Megalve in particular has been prohibited until the channels are improved.

Subject No. 258.

Needless restrictions on grazing in State Forests and useless fire protection.

Summary of discussion.—All the best portions of jungles have been reserved as State Forests by Government. In the portions marked as District jungles, large portions near villages have been converted into protected Forests. A loud protest was made against this but the raiyats were then promised that such forests would be set apart for grazing purposes. Now even these have been included in State Forests and cattle are forbidden from entering them. Grazing is allowed only on the condition that the owners of cattle undertake the clearing of fire lines. Clearing fire lines is a waste of labor and expense, because fire-protection has seldom proved sufficient protection from fire. The restrictions on grazing not only cause indescribable inconvenience to the raiyats but are also prejudicial to forest protection itself inasmuch as the grass grows high and thick and enables accidental fire to burn with all the greater destructive effect.